

Center was established in 1976. The American Folklife Preservation Act states “that the diversity inherent in American folklife has contributed greatly to the cultural richness of the Nation and has fostered a sense of individuality and identity among the American people.” I couldn’t agree more. Dr. Bulger has worked to preserve the unique nature of American folklife for future generations.

During her tenure, the center’s archive has tripled. With more than 5 million items, it is the largest ethnographic archive in the United States and possibly the largest in the world. The collection is a treasure trove of American creativity that is reflected through music, stories, crafts, dances, foodways, and other forms of traditional expression.

I am particularly proud that under her leadership the Folklife Center developed and expanded the Veterans History Project. The project contains more than 78,000 pieces of war-time memories and experiences from Americans across our country. The Veterans History Project has become the largest oral history project in our Nation’s history, and it will all be preserved for generations at the Library of Congress.

The Folklife Center also uses the latest technology to share its holdings via online presentations, as well as through webcasts and social media. As a result, students in Nevada and other States can access the Folklife Center’s collections from their homes, classrooms, and others venues.

It is also important to note that Dr. Bulger and her colleagues have provided advice and support to struggling cultural programs during these difficult economic times. In my home State, for example, the center has served the Western Folklife Center in Elko as well as the Nevada Humanities. The assistance to Nevada’s arts and cultural organizations has been invaluable as my State has weathered the economic recession.

I am proud to recognize Peggy Bulger, and I appreciate her important contributions to the American Folklife Center. I know I speak for the Senate when we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

## DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

### SECTION 647

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I understand there has been some confusion about the application of section 647 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which is codified in 10 U.S.C. 12731(f). This law reduces the eligibility age for retired pay for non-regular service, to provide a benefit to Reserve component members called to Active Duty in support of a contingency operation. Mr. President, 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(13)(B) defines contingency operation to include section 688 relating to the ordering of retired members to Active Duty but does not include section 688a, added in response

to 9/11 and relating to the ordering to Active Duty of retired members in high-demand, low-density assignments.

I filed an amendment to resolve this inconsistency by including mobilizations under section 688a to qualify for earlier receipt of Reserve retired pay under 10 U.S.C. 12731(f). However, I would withdraw my amendment if we can clarify that the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 12731(f) should include mobilizations under 10 U.S.C. 688a.

I ask the chairman of the Armed Services Committee whether he understands that Reserve retirees recalled to Active Duty in support of a contingency operation should qualify for earlier receipt of reserve retired pay under section 12731(f).

Mr. LEVIN. I agree that the authorities allowing for earlier receipt of Reserve retired pay should apply to members of the retired Reserve called to Active Duty in support of a contingency operation to the same extent it applies to other members of the reserves.

Mr. KOHL. I agree with the chairman.

## TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK M. KAISER

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Frederick M. Kaiser, who retired from the Congressional Research Service, CRS, on November 3, 2011.

Mr. Kaiser, a former Specialist in American National Government at CRS, was an authority on congressional oversight issues of great importance to the Congress.

Mr. Kaiser’s career in service to Congress began in the summer of 1974, when he worked as a special staff consultant to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, chaired by Representative Thomas E. “Doc” Morgan of Pennsylvania. At the request of Chairman Morgan, Mr. Kaiser conducted an evaluation of the committee’s oversight activities, which was subsequently published by the committee. This early focus on congressional oversight foretold key aspects of Mr. Kaiser’s CRS career.

Mr. Kaiser began his employment with CRS on February 18, 1975, where he was given responsibility for the subjects of general congressional oversight, congressional oversight of foreign policy, and the authority and role of the General Accounting Office, which is now known as the Government Accountability Office, GAO. These are subjects on which Mr. Kaiser has advised Congress throughout his career. As a result of his high-quality work in service to the Congress, Mr. Kaiser quickly earned the title of Specialist in American National Government just 6 years after joining CRS. Mr. Kaiser continued his high level of service throughout his career, and his areas of expertise gradually expanded. He was regularly recognized for his service to Congress through special

achievement awards and other recognition.

Mr. Kaiser produced hundreds of CRS publications; testified before congressional committees and commissions; and organized policy institutes, workshops, and other policy discussions for congressional staff. Over the course of his career, Mr. Kaiser developed a reputation among colleagues for being supportive and generous in sharing his knowledge and insights.

Mr. Kaiser was regularly at the forefront of emerging legislative issues. As the possibility of organizing Federal homeland security functions into a new department began to develop, Mr. Kaiser undertook studies of agencies that might be included in a new department. As Congress considered the Help America Vote Act, he contributed his expertise on the organization of agencies that might be established to carry out the purposes of the act. Mr. Kaiser’s analysis and insights were important to informing successful efforts to improve GAO’s ability to support congressional oversight of the intelligence community. In February 2008, Mr. Kaiser testified on congressional oversight of the intelligence community before the subcommittee I chair, the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. In his testimony, as well as separate research conducted for the subcommittee, he examined the importance of intelligence community oversight, congressional structures for conducting such oversight, and options for enhancing oversight.

Other examples of Mr. Kaiser’s writing and briefings in the area of congressional oversight of the intelligence community include analyses of proposals for a joint intelligence committee, organizational reform of the House Intelligence Committee, intelligence community whistleblower protection, unauthorized disclosure of classified information, and use of classified information by Members of Congress. Mr. Kaiser also advised Congress on creation of the 9/11 Commission and on implementation of its recommendations, particularly concerning the Commission’s authority and recommendations related to the intelligence community.

Mr. Kaiser has been a leading authority on the management and oversight of the executive branch. Mr. Kaiser analyzed the Government Performance and Results Act, private citizens’ complaint-handling mechanisms, postal reorganization, audit institutions in other nations, statutory inspectors general, privatization of government background investigations, and security clearances. He also authored, with other selected CRS specialists, the Congressional Oversight Manual. The 1993 bipartisan House Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress noted the value of this publication, stating: